

Opm-11-5

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM: Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE July 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.	C/Ops				
2.					
3.	C/E&PS				
4.	DD/FBIS				
5.	D/FBIS				
6.					
7.	PO/RA				
8.	SA/CD				
9.	DD/FBIS				
10.	C/AS				
11.	C/B&F/AS				
12.	C/PAER 9				
13.	C/50				
14.	C/AG				
15.	Exec. Reg.				



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

FBIS 2614-88
1 August 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU : Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Abidjan -- July 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. President Samuel Doe of Liberia announced in a national broadcast on 13 July that "a plot to overthrow the Government of Liberia" had been foiled when security forces routed an "invading force" of about 11 men in northern Nimba County. Reportedly killed in the clash was the leader of the "coup attempt," J. Nicholas Podier, a former vice head of state and one of the enlisted men who, with Doe, overthrew the Tolbert government in 1980. Monrovia's Radio ELWA subsequently reported that two U.S. citizens had been arrested and had "confessed to their involvement in the planning and execution of the invasion plot." A Liberian assistant minister of state later accused the United States "and other Western countries" of supporting Liberian dissidents abroad. Liberia's expulsion of more than 60 Sierra Leoneans in the wake of these events prompted Sierra Leone's President Momoh to announce that he was sending his foreign minister to Monrovia to "establish the facts."

2. The foreign ministers of Chad and Libya met in Libreville, Gabon on 7 July in the first direct negotiations between the two countries since 1973. A communique issued at the end of the talks expressed satisfaction with the "important step" taken in Libreville, and the Gabonese foreign minister termed the meeting a "success." The two sides apparently decided to meet "at a later date" at an undisclosed venue. Meanwhile, somewhat dampening this unusual mood of optimism, Ndjamen radio reported Libyan overflights of the north of Chad on the very day of the opening of the Libreville meeting. Subsequent overflights were reported on 12 and 14 July. In light of this, the Chadian Foreign Ministry said, Chad "has the right to question the degree of sincerity of the Libyan leaders."

3. Several cabinet reshuffles were carried out in the region in July: in the CAR, where President Kolingba appointed a new foreign minister; in Niger, with the appointment of a new prime minister and foreign affairs minister; in Zaire, a minor reshuffle coupled with a large-scale reorganization of the Zairian Armed Forces; in Benin, a major reshuffle in which President Kerekou commented that the degradation of the economic situation had led him to make the changes, including the appointment of a new finance minister; and in Congo, where the environment and information ministers were dropped in the wake of the ruling party's call for action against those involved in the importation of toxic waste.

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B. Communications

Due to the continuing outage of the bureau's backup telex, an International Direct Dial (IDD) communications link was set up. During a primary communications circuit outage on 29 July, four messages were successfully sent via this IDD link.

C. Technical

1. During the week of 4 July, the bureau communications circuit was down for extended periods due to equipment malfunction at the Embassy when their HF transmitters were in use. Initially we were unable to successfully bring up the IDD system due to a problem in properly linking with the modems unit. However by 18 July, we were able to set up the system and link with the FBIS Data Center and later held training sessions between Reston and Abidjan operators. The link worked successfully during a 29 July circuit outage.

2. Abidjan's commo circuit was upgraded to 150 bauds on 26 July.

3. With the arrival of two ADD contractors, on 28 July we started setting up the new RS-232 communications network. Several problems arose initially, compounded by equipment malfunctions at Embassy. The following day, we were able to go to the modems with RS-232 from the computer, but again had equipment malfunctions. These were resolved and the RS-232 [] established on 29 July with subsequent training of Abidjan commo operators on the new system. STAT

4. Equipment received during the month: 7 audio sub-assemblies, 7 multicouplers, 2 computer systems and 1 Comscribe printer.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Personnel

1. [] departed on 23 July after a 2-year tour at Abidjan Bureau. Her replacement, [] arrived on 15 July on a lateral transfer from Paraguay Bureau. STAT
STAT

2. [] received a QSI effective 3 July. STAT

3. Communications section chief [] received a QSI effective 17 July. STAT

III. VISITS

1. ADD contractors Tom McCorry and Walter Hedberg visited the bureau at the end of July to set up the RS-232 system and train commo section personnel in its use.

2. DCM Vincent Farley visited briefly as part of Ambassador Kux's program of periodic contacts with Embassy components. Among the topics he raised was his role in the establishment of Seoul Bureau several years back and efforts to improve the International School in Abidjan. [] STAT

Acting Chief, Abidjan Bureau

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau